



EPA Region 8 – Helena, Montana  
Community Involvement Coordinator  
**TRIP REPORT – Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019 – NOT FOR RELEASE**

**Trip Summary:** As the new CIC for the Helena, Montana office, this was the second trip made to Butte, Montana in seven days. The intent of the trip was to meet members of the community not met on the first trip, to gain additional information regarding Butte Superfund clean-up status, to reach out to the community, to understand the issues, and their perspectives toward the EPA and work conducted to date. All meetings were well received.

**Key Takeaways:**

- CIC continues to gather information from various and many community organizations and sources to understand the complexity of this site.
- The community is pleased with community-EPA cooperation that has occurred over the past 3-5 years. Present CIC must capitalize on progress, continue to strengthen community perception of EPA's regulatory authority, and educate the community about EPA's roles in Superfund management.
- Fritz Daily said an additional lawsuit related to creek restoration is forthcoming.
- No press anticipated from the meetings.
- **Community wants more EPA engagement, whether it's informative or actions based on new or recent events.**
- EPA CIC is asked provide feedback to the community that ensure citizens receive the updates (i.e., reach intended publics by understanding how information is best received).
- More frequent and varied communication tools and tactics should be used to ensure all intended markets, publics are reached through their desired markets by understanding how the demographics best receive messages.

This trip report includes photos, the day's agenda, questions, and CIC actions.



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**Follow Up (For Action):**

1. EPA CIC has been asked to participate in a local radio station show, Party Line, on KBOW FM as well as do radio interviews. (Might we schedule a joint session with Nikia, Chris & Jacqui?) Interviews are also posted to their website.
2. Set up Town Hall and civic interaction briefings.
3. Communicate the status of the CTEC-TAG grant status.
4. Follow up with CTEC-TAG regarding 5-year plan preparations.
5. Follow up with Fritz Daly to tell him where the ROD comments are available for review.
6. Help Ed Banderob determine which homes in his neighborhood are pre-post 1950. (Complete – referred him to the Butte County Assessor's office where they can provide this information via address.)
7. Provide feedback to Greeley Neighborhood Coalition on the following topics:
  - a. Status of Metal Study
  - b. Status of request to be included as a separate Butte OU?
  - c. Status of review of Greeley Neighborhood to become a Superfund site.
  - d. Change Montana standards for metal contamination.
8. Attend the following meetings:
  - a. 21FEB CTEC-TAG mtg, 6 p.m., Butte Archives
  - b. 25-28FEB HAZWOPER Training, Butte (Engagement opportunity)
  - c. 14MAR Water Quality Workshop
  - d. March 25 or 26 NIH Workshop meeting
  - e. TBD CTEC-TAG Strategic Plan Meeting



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**Questions:**

**Q1.** How can the EPA ensure Butte as a Superfund site is cleaned up in perpetuity? (Daly).

**Q2.** Is ARCO responsible for removing parrot tailings?

**Q3.** The community cited errors were made in the Record of Decision. Were errors made and how are we addressing them?

**Q3a.** What mechanisms might we use to correct possible errors? ROD Amendments?

**Q4.** What are the EPA's requirements regarding Silverbow Creek restoration?

**Q5.** Over the years, what technologies have been reviewed, investigated, considered and used as part of the EPA's restoration or remediation efforts?

**Q5a.** Is the EPA presently considering or actively seeking new technologies to help solve Butte Superfund issues? If so, what is being explored?

**Q6.** When was the last EPA Superfund Town Hall in Butte? When might we be able to host another one to gather information?

**Q7.** Does the EPA have a budget for radio or TV PSAs? If so, how often do they run? Do they require updating?

**Q8.** The CTEC-TAG was very much interested in trying to get the EPA out to civic organizations to brief the status of what we've done for cleanup, where we are today, and what we plan to do in the future. May we schedule?

**Q9.** What is the background regarding creek cleanup starting at Casey Creek?

**Q10.** Does the EPA have a community contingency plan for Butte in case of flood or earthquake? Wouldn't that be the local government to develop/deliver such a plan?

**Q11.** Can CTEC-TAG have a voice in the 5-year plan development?

**Q12.** Do we feel the CTEC-TAG or NIH health studies can be validated? Can we say they have reached 100% of the community or have a survey validation rate of at least 70%? (CTEC-TAG reports their survey goal was 550; To date they've received 175 returned via random mailers. Of that 175, 90 agreed to be interviewed face to face.)

**Q13.** Has a comprehensive or long-term study been commissioned regarding Butte's health studies?

**Q14.** What has been done to ensure Environmental Justice concerns in the Butte community?



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**Q15.** Does the EPA consider Butte Silverbow Creek a creek, a ditch, or something else?

**Q16.** Where are the ROD comments published for community review before a decision was/is made (just FEDBIZOPS)? The sentiment here is the comments went into a “black hole” and some citizens want to see what was said in the comments. Where are these comments presently available for community review?

**Q17.** CTEC-TAG submits the EPA’s ROD comments were “impatient” and ill received by some community members who in fact did get to read them. Is it possible for the EPA to review them and provide feedback other than just posting to a website or adding to a file in the repository?

**Q18.** What is the background regarding the Lexington area of interest?

**Q19.** What is the status of the Greeley Neighborhood Coalition request for a metal study?

**Q20.** Does the Department of Health believe there is cause for concern in the Greeley neighborhood or the need for additional studies, and if so, what is currently happening?

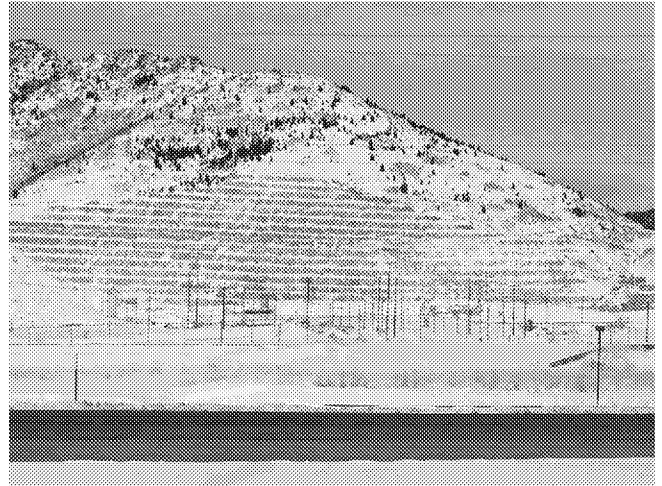
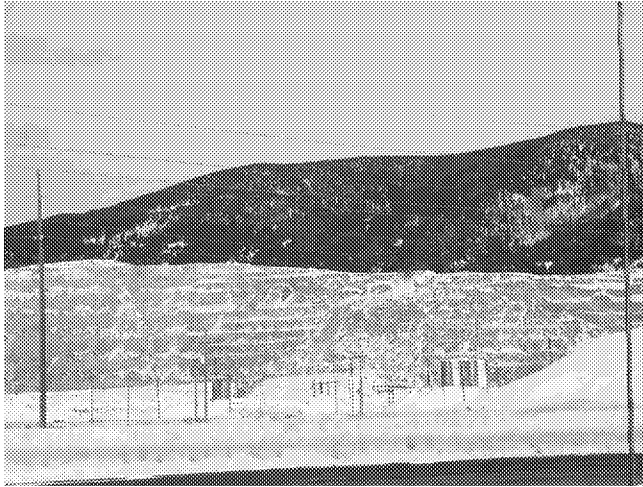
**Q21.** Is there a map of the Greeley neighborhood that has been sampled for area contamination? If so, who would have it? Dept. of Health? County Commission? MTDEQ?

**Q22.** Does EPA have a role in helping Greeley Coalition change standards?

**Q23.** Greeley Neighborhood Coalition submits remediation and restoration efforts are being compromised because of present Montana Resource active mining efforts. What role does the EPA have in this concern? Has the Coalition followed the proper reporting process to initiate investigations?



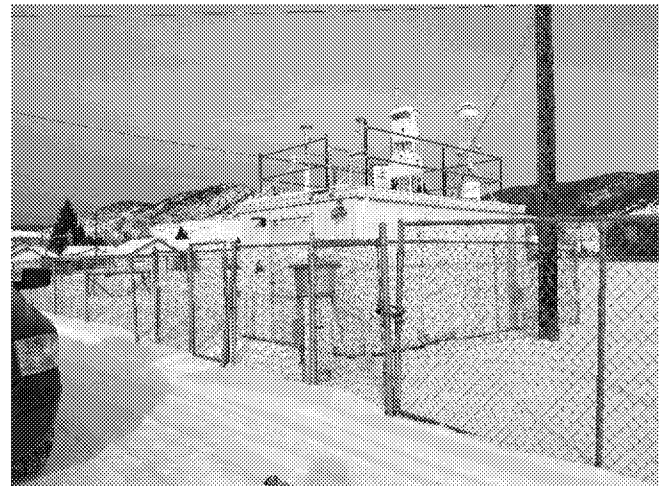
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Looking toward Montana Resources property from Stuart Avenue. Photos depict dust that, in most seasons, blows into Greeley neighborhood yards, according to Greeley Coalition members. Presently, EPA does not have a role in this discussion, however, the Coalition is asking the EPA to consider adding their concerns to the Superfund listing or as an Operable Unit.



Looking toward Montana Resources property from Stuart Avenue, the building in the center of the photo is where Coalition members state MR dumps and subsequently may add to dust concerns shared by local Greeley residents.



Air quality test station owned by MTDEQ presently tests the air for possible contaminants in response to Greeley Neighborhood Coalition concerns.



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**Agenda:**

0804 Departed Helena, en route Butte

0930 Met with Dr. John Ray, Hummingbird Café. (2<sup>nd</sup> mtg)

1100 Meet with Fritz Daily at Hennessy's Market. (1<sup>st</sup> mtg)

1230 CTEC-TAG

Dave Williams, President

Bill McGregor

Janice, TAG coordinator

1400 Meet with Greeley Neighborhood Representative Ed Banderob, Member,  
Greeley Neighborhood (GNCDClnc. - Habitability - Mining Impact Task Force)  
located at 2601 Grand.

1530 Departed Butte, en route Helena (approximate departure time)

**Rescheduled**

TBD Meet with Laura Stout, Community Mom engagement, Sparky's Garage –  
(Children had flu)

TBD Evan Barrett, Restore Our Creek Back Briefing